

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: UNICEF REQUEST FOR USG SUPPORT FOR RE-
HABILITATION PROGRAM

1. USUN HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM V.A.M. BEERMAN,
SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNICEF,
CALLING ATTENTION TO SITUATION IN LEBANON, CITING
UNICEF PRESS RELEASE OF 14 FEBRUARY 1976, AND
REQUESTING US SUPPORT. (COPY OF LETTER AND TEXT
BEING POUCHED IO/CMD.) TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE AS
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE 18 FEBRUARY 1976

DEAR MR. SEIFMAN,

AFTER I HAD TO SUBMIT TO YOU ON 11 FEBRUARY A PRESS RELEASE
DESCRIBING THE TRAGIC SITUATION FOR CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA
IN ORDER TO ENLIST SUPPORT FOR UNICEF'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME,
I AM NOW COMPELLED TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO STILL ANOTHER
COUNTRY WHICH RECENTLY HAS BECOME EXPOSED TO CONSIDERABLE
DISTRESS AND SUFFERING FOR CHILDREN. I AM REFERRING TO LEBANON.
ATTACHED PRESS RELEASE SETS FORTH THE DETAILS OF OUR CON-
TEMPLATED ACTION. ONCE MORE, THE VAST NEEDS CAN ONLY BE MET
IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RESPONDS GENEROUSLY TO OUR
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APPEAL.

I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN COMMENDING THIS REQUEST TO YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY YOURS,
V.A.M. BEERMAN
SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNQUOTE

QUOTE PRESS RELEASE R/76/2 14 FEBRUARY 1976

UNICEF ASSISTING REHABILITATION IN LEBANON

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF), MR. H.R. LABOUISSSE, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT UNICEF IS UNDERTAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO HELP REHABILITATE CHILDREN'S SERVICES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY FIGHTING IN LEBANON. PRESENTLY CALCULATED COSTS TO UNICEF AMOUNT TO AT LEAST \$1 MILLION AND MAY BE MUCH HIGHER. UNICEF'S ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PART OF AND CO-ORDINATED WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED ASSISTANCE WILL BE PRESENTED TO UNICEF'S EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN MAY.

UNICEF, WHICH HAS ALREADY ALLOCATED \$140,000 FOR RELIEF NEEDS OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY, WILL CONCENTRATE ITS REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE ON RECONSTRUCTION AND RE-EQUIPMENT OF SCHOOLS, HEALTH INSTITUTIONS, POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN LEBANON.

THE EMPHASIS IN THIS ASSISTANCE WILL BE ON POORER DISTRICTS OF BEIRUT AND AREAS OF THE COUNTRY MOST SERIOUSLY DAMAGED OR ISOLATED DURING THE HOSTILITIES.

UNICEF HAS BEEN WORKING SINCE THE FIGHTING ENDED WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT RELIEF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO SURVEY BOTH IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM NEEDS OF DISTRESSED FAMILIES. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO UNICEF IN THE IMMEDIATE RELIEF STAGE ARE THE MANY THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WHO, WITH THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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FAMILIES, HAVE BEEN DISPLACED WITHIN LEBANON AND CONCENTRATED IN WIDELY-DISPERSED CAMPS. MOTHER AND CHILD POPULATIONS IN THESE CAMPS IN SOME CASES HAVE REACHED 90 PER CENT.

DURING THE FIGHTING, UNICEF'S BEIRUT OFFICE DISTRIBUTED TONS OF POWDERED AND WHOLE MILK, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND BLANKETS FROM ITS OWN STOCKS AND HELPED DISTRIBUTE AND TRANSPORT SUPPLIES DONATED BY JORDAN AND SYRIA. THE OFFICE FORESEES

AN IMMEDIATE DEMAND FOR HIGH-PROTEIN FOOD, DRUGS AND DIET SUPPLEMENTS, BASIC MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND SIMPLE NEEDS SUCH AS POTS AND PANS, HURRICANE LAMPS AND SOAP.

MR. LABOUISSSE SAID THE REHABILITATION EFFORT WOULD BE STARTED WITH FUNDS FROM UNICEF'S OWN RESOURCES BUT THE BULK OF THE EFFORT WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE SOUGHT FROM GOVERNMENTS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE REGION, AND FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL DONORS. UNQUOTE
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